(b) if so, whether Government has any data about those weavers who have been rendered jobless; and

(c) the efforts being made to protect the people engaged in this industry?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) No, Sir. However, due to import of silk cloth from China the silk saree industry of Varanasi has been affected to some extent.

(b) According to State Government of Uttar Pradesh, no authentic data on weavers who have been rendered jobless is available. Approximately 30% of the handlooms have been badly affected due to reduction in market demand in domestic market as well as on account of recession in textile export market.

(c) To promote handloom silk products such as Banarasi sarees, dress materials etc. the Government of India is implementing various handloom schemes like the Integrated Handloom Development Scheme, Handloom Weavers Comprehensive Welfare Scheme, Marketing and Export Promotion Scheme, Mill Gate Price Scheme in the Varanasi Cluster. Under the Integrated Handloom Cluster Development Scheme, 20 handloom clusters have been taken for holistic development, out of which, Varanasi is one of the clusters. There are about 12,000 productive handlooms in this cluster covered under the Integrated Handloom Cluster Development Scheme. Further, in order to protect the silk industry, Antidumping Duty on the import of silk fabrics (20-100 gms) from China is in place from November, 2006.

Coordinated counter operation to fight naxalism

*132. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of recent attack by Naxalites on security forces in Gadchiroli district of Maharashtra, the Union Government has now devised a long-haul strategy that will involve simultaneous coordinated counter operations in all left wing extremism hit States and to plug the all possible escape routes of Maoists;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government has circulated a questionnaire to all the States seeking information on various counts like the strength of their respective police force, need for additional weapons, extent of Central forces engaged etc.; and

(d) if so, the response of the State Governments thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (d) In a recent meeting of Chief Ministers of 7 naxal affected States, it was unanimously agreed that there is need to undertake coordinated and joint operations by the States, particularly in the bi-junction and tri-junction areas between different States. In this context, it has also been emphasized upon the States that there is need to develop integrated action plans at the State level so that all the necessary requirements for effective operations,

such as adequate force availability, weaponry, mobility, communications, and institutionalised mechanisms for sharing of intelligence and operational coordination, can be put in place in a planned manner. Action along these lines has been initiated by the various State Governments. The Ministry of Home Affairs is also following up with the State Governments, and is also providing assistance as required in terms of deployment of forces, helicopters for logistics support, etc.

Relief in loan to weavers

*133. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has formulated a plan to provide relief in loan to weavers;

(b) if so, the outlines of the plan;

(c) whether Government has made any assessment about the loans given to weavers; and

(d) if so, the average loan amount on weavers at national level in December, 2008 in the country?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) and (b) A committee headed by Managing Director, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) was formed by this Ministry to look into the problems of high cost of working capital and choking of credit lines in the handloom sector. The committee prepared a Financial Package in this regard whose proposals *inter-alia* include Waiver of overdue interest and overdue loans of Handloom Weavers' Cooperative Societies as on 31st March, 2007. The proposal is under consideration of the Government.

(c) and (d) Handloom Sector comprises largely of household and non-household units, which fall mostly under the unorganized sector. Credit needs of large number of weavers are being met through NABARD's concessional re-finance, Commercial Banks and informal channels. On the basis of data available, the credit flow to Handloom Sector from Co-operative Banks and RRBs during 2007-08 for production purpose was Rs. 950 crores. The Handloom Sector provides livelihood to 65 lakh weavers and allied workers. Thus, the per capita credit availability is Rs. 1461/-.

Effect of shortage of AJTs on trainings

*134. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of insufficient number of Hawk Advanced Jet Trainers (AJTs), the Indian Air Force has decided to reduce by half the number of personnel who will train on these recently inducted aircrafts;

(b) if so, the details thereof;